

**North Carolina Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council**  
**Taylor Building, Room 204, Dix Campus**  
**February 20, 2006**  
**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Martin Pharr, Carolyn Wiser, Heather Burkhardt, Esther High, Laura White, Densie Lucas, Mary Recca Todd, Jeff McLoud, Dan Fox, Ed Seavey, Sheila Wall-Hill, and Patricia Harris. Libby Jones and William Jones joined the Council Meeting by telephone.

**Others:** Karen Stallings, Kent Earnhardt, and Cecilia Burress.

**Staff to Council:** Susan Robinson, Rhoda Miller, and Lisa Jackson.

**Call to Order/Introductions/Approval of Minutes**

Libby Jones, Chair of the Council, called the meeting to order. New member Heather Burkhardt from the Division of Aging and Adult Services was introduced and welcomed to the Council. Heather replaces Mary Bethel who retired last year. Minutes from the January 6, 2006 meeting were approved with changes noted and will be sent out to the membership. Libby asked Jeff McLoud to chair the meeting for her today since he was able to attend today's meeting (inclement weather in some areas of the state prevented members from being able to attend in person).

**Planning Future Meetings**

In response to earlier conversations about the Planning Council's role in advocacy, Susan Robinson presented a list of opportunities for consumer and family involvement and advocacy in North Carolina; the list included groups or organizations that were under the NC Dept. of Health and Human Services/Div. of MH/DD/SAS, and other groups with national/state affiliates, and finally, groups that were North Carolina-specific in advocacy focus. Council members reviewed the list and provided additional groups or organizations which needed to be added. North Carolina has many opportunities for consumer and family member involvement; the emphasis has been on identifying those opportunities for consumers and other advocates to have a very solid role. Advocacy information can be submitted in the Mental Health Block Grant with a breakdown as to national, state or North Carolina-specific advocacy groups.

The Council recognized the good job that Jeff McLoud did in a presentation he gave at the Legislative Oversight Committee last week; he represented the North Carolina Mental Health Consumers Organization. Other representatives were also there from the State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee and local Consumer and Family Advisory Committee.

Jeff McLoud introduced and Council members approved the issue of having time set aside on the agenda for new business to be discussed by Council members. This will be an opportunity to have input from Council members about what is going on around the state; there will need to be a time limit on this agenda item.

In terms of future agendas, Laura White stressed that agenda items need to be tied to the Mental Health Block Grant. Another question to consider is whether the agenda item is one on which the Council needs to take action or is simply for informational purposes.

Topics of interest for future agendas include Local Management Entities, how they are spending Mental Health Block Grant money, and availability of CTSP funding; Jim Jarrard is the team leader for the Accountability Team and would be a prospective speaker for this agenda item. Another issue is how to make better use of consumer input, specifically, what is working and what is not working. Possible speakers from the NC Council of Community Programs may be Janet Schanzenbach or Carol Clayton who could cover legislative updates. Other areas of interests for topics: flexible funding versus single stream funding, service arrays, access to services, services for veterans which can overlap with other areas such as housing/homelessness, support services for family members, and domestic violence; special initiatives, and rural services.

Susan Robinson distributed the Summary of the NC Mental Health Block Grant Plan FFY 2006 Criterion and Objectives. This summary listed each of the four criteria for adults (community based mental health service system, data epidemiology, rural and homeless, and management systems) and the five criteria for children (the same criteria as listed for adults with the addition of the children's services criterion) which are required by the Center for Mental Health Services. Under each of these criterion sections are objectives of the child and adult plans. This Summary was developed in response to the Council's request for some type of "tool" to utilize in reviewing the Block Grant and/or the Implementation Report. National Outcome Measures or NOMs were denoted by asterisks.

There was initial discussion around having consumers come in and speak at Council meetings, but members felt that the information that they bring in should help set the agenda as opposed to having individual consumers speak; these types of issues need to be brought up through the sub-committees.

Martin Pharr asked about what the Council is doing in terms of advocacy. This is an area that the Council membership agreed that they could have more impact on and may present an opportunity for them to tackle a project or support an issue around a particular topic that interfaces between child and adult. There was discussion around the development of a resource guide, especially in regards to transition services for those youth transitioning into adulthood. May is Mental Health Awareness Month which would present opportunities for advocacy efforts. Other possible areas of interest for projects included community support, homelessness, workforce development, Mental Health parity, multi-agency collaboration and coordination to streamline services and lower costs through the support of legislative action; Sally Cameron from Coalition 2001 or Rob Lamme may be possible speakers as legislative liaisons.

The Mental Health Block Grant for 2006-07 will be due on September 1, 2006; the Mental Health Block Grant Implementation Report for 2005-06 will be due on December 1, 2006. Members discussed and agreed on the following dates in planning for the year's

remaining meetings and to make the best use of time to allow for input into each of the above referenced documents:

**March 3, 2006, Royster Bldg.:** National Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council Training with Stephanie Townsend, covering basic Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council training and possible projects and general information on Evidence-Based Practices.

**May 5, 2006, Royster Bldg.:** Council meeting

**July 14, 2006,** location to be determined: focus on Block Grant Plan

**August 4, 2006,** location to be determined: focus on Block Grant Plan

**October 6, 2006,** location to be determined: focus on Block Grant Implementation Report

**November 3, 2006, Royster Bldg.:** focus on Block Grant Implementation Report

### **Training Opportunities**

The Council members discussed interest in determining if money from the Block Grant could be used to pay the costs for members to attend conferences or take advantage of training opportunities. There is the 2006 Joint National Conference on the Mental Health Block Grant & MH Statistics Conference coming up in late May/early June in Washington, D.C.; some council members expressed an interest in attending. Libby Jones indicated that Federation of Families will send one family member. Other training opportunities discussed included training around veterans' issues, especially veterans' families, housing/homelessness issues and domestic violence.

Bill Jones took a few minutes to provide an update on Medicare Part D Prescription Plan Coverage. The time frame to get prescriptions covered under Medicare Part D has now been increased from 30 days to 90 days on a nationwide basis. Twenty-four million Americans have signed up for Medicare Part D. Bill voiced appreciation of the help and support that had been provided by Stephanie Townsend of the National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils.

### **Wrap-Up**

Jeff McLoud thanked everyone for coming and for those joining by telephone. Mileage forms were dispersed for those claiming mileage and the meeting was adjourned.

### **Handouts**

1. 02-20-06 MHPC Meeting Agenda
2. 01-06-06 Draft MHPC Minutes
3. Summary of Existing Opportunities for NC Consumer and Family Involvement and Advocacy (updated – February 2006)
4. Summary of the NC Mental Health Block Grant Plan FFY 2006 Criterion and Objectives (January 2006)
5. Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services: Topics and Resource Documents/Web Links